(c) the authorities responsible for overseeing the basic fire safety standards for the school kitchens; and

(d) whether Government contemplate to review the fire safety measures in the school kitchens, especially in the light of the tragedy at Kumbakonam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) As per available information, the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (commonly referred to as the Mid-day Meal Scheme) is being implemented in all eligible primary schools, as per guidelines, except in Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) No such survey has been conducted or commissioned by the Department of Elementary Education & Literacy.

(c) School Managements.

(d) After the Kumbakonam tragedy, Central Government has requested States to take all possible steps for ensuring safety and well being of school children, including adequate arrangements for fire safety, regular inspections and monitoring.

Retirement benefits for school teachers

1984. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the retirement benefits including gratuity given to the Government school teachers compare unfavourably with those made available to other Central Government employees; and

(b) if so, to what extent and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) School teachers of Kendriya Vidyalaya get the retirement benefit including gratuity under the provisions of CSS Pension Rules 1972 as applicable to Central Government employee; the retirement benefit of pension and gratuity are not available to the school teachers of Navodaya Vidyalayas. Other retirement benefits like CPF, leave encashment, payment of gratuity under Payment of Gratuity Act 1972 given to school

teachers of Navodaya Vidyalayas are favourably comparable within those available to other Central Government Employees. The implication of a judgement dated 13.1.2004 of the Apex Court in a matter between Ahmedabad Private Teachers Association and Administrative officers and others are being studied for Central Government Schools.

School teachers of Government Schools of UTs are given the retirement benefits at par with other Central Government Employees.

School teachers of State Governments and other organisations are governed by the rules and regulation framed by the respective State Governments/organisations.

Mass education programme in Orissa

1985. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the Mass Education Programme, the State Government of Orissa has made proposals for continuing education for the districts of Angul, Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Malkangiri, Nuapada and Sambalpur etc.;

(b) if so, whether the necessary approval has been accorded in the matter and the State Government has been apprised of the position; and

(c) if not, the status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The State Government of Orissa has made proposals for continuing education in the districts of Angul, Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Malkangiri and Sambalpur etc.

Continuing Education Projects (CEPs) are approved after final settlement of accounts of Total Literacy/Post Literacy Project.

CEPs in these districts have not been approved as accounts of Total Literacy/Post Literacy Projects sanctioned to these districts have not been finally settled.